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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 30 November 2012, at 11.30 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Talbot ..... (Guyana)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.40 a.m.

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.4 and L.46)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.46: International Day of Forests

1. **The Chair** drew attention to the draft resolution, submitted by Ms. Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.4. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

2. **Mr. Devanlay** (Observer for the European Union) said that while the European Union would join the consensus on the draft resolution, its member States wished to reiterate that the proclamation of international days, years and decades must be consistent with the guidelines set out by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1980/67 and subsequently supported by the General Assembly in its resolutions 53/199 and 61/185. The European Union would defend those guidelines in future discussions, in support of the cost-effectiveness and revitalization of the General Assembly.

3. **Ms. Montel** (France) drew attention to a discrepancy in the title of the French-language version of the draft resolution.

4. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.46 was adopted.*

5. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.4 was withdrawn.*

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.18 and L.45)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.45: Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

6. **The Chair** drew attention to the draft resolution, submitted by Ms. Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations on *draft* resolution A/C.2/67/L.18. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

7. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.45 was adopted.*

8. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.18 was withdrawn.*

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.6 and L.47)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.47: International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

9. **The Chair** drew attention to the draft resolution, submitted by Ms. Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.6. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

10. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.47 was adopted.*

11. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.6 was withdrawn.*

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.17 and L.49)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.49: Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

12. **The Chair** drew attention to the draft resolution, submitted by Ms. Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.17. She took it that the Committee was prepared to waive the 24-hour provision under rule 120 of the rules of procedure in order to proceed with action on the draft resolution. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

13. **Ms. Mathis** (France) said that her delegation had not had an opportunity to review the French version of the draft resolution for discrepancies.

14. **Mr. Pfaffernoschke** (Germany), facilitator of the informal consultations on the draft resolution, said that in the third preambular paragraph, the word "striving" should replace the word "efforts". In addition, in the fourth preambular paragraph, the word "and" should be

inserted between the words "recurrent" and "long", and, in paragraph 4, the phrase "development agenda beyond 2015" should be changed to read "post-2015 development agenda".

15. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.49, as orally amended, was adopted.*

16. **Ms. Robl** (United States of America) said that the United States was an active supporter of efforts to reduce land degradation and implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Her delegation had raised concerns over use of the term "land-degradation-neutral world" in the draft resolution, and wished to stress the voluntary nature of national-level engagement with the issue of land degradation, whether through initiatives related to the Convention or other mechanisms.

17. **Mr. Egerton** (Observer for the World Meteorological Organization(WMO)) said that, given the concerns about climate change, together with the projected increases in the intensity of droughts and the virtually global lack of drought preparedness, the time was ripe for Member States to develop proactive and risk-based national drought policies. In that regard, WMO welcomed the reference in the draft resolution to the High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy, to be held from 11 to 15 March 2013, which was being organized on the basis of a recommendation made at the Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress, which had been held from 15 May to 3 June 2011.

18. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.17 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 24: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.30/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.30/Rev.1: Promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection

19. **The Chair** drew attention to the draft resolution, which had no programme budget implications.

20. **Mr. Iziraren** (Morocco), speaking as the main sponsor of the draft resolution, said that, in addition to the countries listed in the document, Afghanistan, Andorra, Australia, Bahrain, El Salvador, Jamaica, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Qatar, Solomon Islands, Sweden, Togo and Turkmenistan had joined the list of sponsors.

21. **The Chair** said that Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, the Niger, the Republic of Moldova and Yemen had also joined the list of sponsors.

22. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.30/Rev.1 was adopted.*

23. **Mr. Iziraren** (Morocco) said that the international community's efforts to promote ecotourism would help to create jobs, reduce poverty and promote sustainable development, thereby strengthening the rule of law and protection of the environment.

24. **Mr. Rahman** (Observer for the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)) welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution, in particular the references made to UNWTO and other United Nations agencies and programmes, demonstrating the confidence Member States placed in their efforts to promote sustainable tourism. Recalling that paragraph 20 contained a request for the Secretary-General to submit, in collaboration with UNWTO, a report on the implementation of the draft resolution, he stressed that the quality of the report would depend on Member States' timely responses to requests for substantive inputs.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.